

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM NATIONAL
ORGANIC INITIATIVE**

| State Ranking Questions—400 total points possible | Points |
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| (1) If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category. | |
| 1(a) Is the program application for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for a Technical Service Provider (TSP) prepared Transition to Organic Plan (138)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other state level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. | 400 |
| Soil Quality Degradation: Maximum 60 points. | |
| (2) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of one soil health or enhancing practice that addresses soil tilth, crusting, water infiltration, organic matter, compaction, etc.? | 60 |
| Soil Erosion: Maximum of 60 points | |
| (3) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in reduction of erosion? | 60 |
| Water Quality Degradation: Maximum of 70 points. | |
| 4(a) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices for the management of noxious and invasive species ONLY on noncropland acreage? | 35 |
| 4(b) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of nutrient management for management of soil fertility, plant nutrients, and soil amendments? | 35 |
| Degraded Habitat: Maximum of 90 points | |
| 5(a) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will result in creation of buffer zones that will mitigate offsite contaminants from entering the farm? | 20 |
| 5(b) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices with the intent of increasing habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects, or both? | 50 |
| 5(c) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve wildlife habitat? | 20 |
| Insufficient Water: Maximum of 50 points. | |
| (6) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include practices that will improve the efficiency of an existing irrigation system, conserve soil moisture, or both? | 50 |
| Livestock Production Limitation: Maximum of 70 points | |
| 7(a) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to improve the management of plant species, livestock, residues, feed, and other identified resource needs? | 40 |
| 7(b) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices that limit and manage domestic livestock access to streams, creeks, and other natural water bodies? | 20 |
| 7(c) Does the EQIP Schedule of Operations include implementation of practices to ensure that adequate domestic livestock drinking water sources (not including streams) are available in the treatment unit? | 10 |

APPLICATION EVALUATION RANKING TOOL—STATE AND LOCAL QUESTIONS

| Local Ranking Questions - 250 total points possible | Points |
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| (1) Is the program application for development of a conservation activity plan (CAP) for a TSP prepared transition to Organic Plan (138)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other state-level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. | 250 |
| (2) Application includes at least one Conservation Plan (CP) with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). | 50 |
| (3) CPs are scheduled to be completed within 4 years. | 50 |
| (4) Participant has a conservation plan approved at least 30 days prior to the application cutoff date that addresses a primary resource concern. | 50 |
| (5) Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). | 100 |